Informational Packet

of the

THE HYPOTHETICAL NATURAL HISTORY CLUB

The Salton Sea and the Surrounding Region

The
Revised Edition
Volume
II

Welcome to The Hypothetical Natural History Club. The following informational packet will inform you of several key features of the natural history of a particular region over a span of time. All sources of information in this packet are reliable and verified. This packet covers the Salton Sea and the associated region and beliefs. This is the second volume of the Salton Sea Edition, and as such it may be incomprehensible to the lay person without the support of the first volume[1] . Please review that material before proceeding with this text. Great effort has been undertaken to explain some of the complexities involved with the region and eliminate jargon where possible. Unlike many informational packets on this region, this packet has no political or sectarian agenda. This packet makes no attempt to force you to think a certain way[2]. This packet is for research purposes only.

You are standing on the shore of the Salton Sea. There are many falsehoods, myths and rumors associated with the most recent incarnation of this ancient body of water[3]. It is the goal of this informational packet to separate the scientific truth from the outright lies[4]. For instance, it is a commonly held belief in the general population that the shore of the Salton Sea is primarily composed of fish bones[5]. This is not the case. The majority of the "bone sand" that is deposited on large swathes of the beaches of the Salton Sea is in fact composed of the shells of Amphitrite's rock barnacle (*Amphibalanus amphitrite*)[6]. The species is most likely native to the southern Pacific Ocean and was inadvertently introduced to the Salton Sea after the Second World War by contaminated United States Navy equipment returning from that theater of operations[7]. After the war the Salton Sea was used extensively as a test and research area by multiple branches of the United States Military[8]. Amphitrite's rock barnacle was named by Charles Darwin in 1854CE in honor of the Greek saltwater goddess Amphitrite, wife of Poseidon. In the Roman pantheon she was sometimes named as *Salachia*, and she is also known as the goddess of springs, ruling over the springs of highly mineralized waters[9].

Figure 1: Spectators enjoying a day at the Salton Sea

Another myth about the Salton Sea is that it is highly polluted[10]. While the lake has a higher salinity level than the Pacific Ocean [11], very little of the dissolved salts are particularly toxic. One toxic substance that does occur naturally in the Salton Sea is hydrogen sulfide gas (H_2S)[12]. The gas has a "rotten eggs" smell and is produced by the anaerobic breakdown of dead hybrid tilapia fish (*Oreochromis mossambicus*)[13] in the deepest parts of the Salton Sea. The gas is heavier than air and tends to accumulate in low areas where it has a greater potential to explode. H_2S is extremely lethal to humans even at relatively low concentrations and chronic exposure can cause brain damage[14]. At 800 parts per million (ppm), 50% of humans will die within five minutes of contact; concentrations over 1000 ppm will cause immediate collapse and death[15]. Diagnostic clues of extreme poisoning by H_2S are the discoloration of copper coins in the pockets of the victim, which turn carbon black[16], and if the victim is male, H_2S invariably leaves the corpse with a noticeable erection[17]. Treatment of H_2S poisoning involves immediate inhalation of amyl nitrite. The inhalants' common street name is RUSH[18].

The gas has been implicated in a number of mass extinction events, most notably the Permian-Triassic extinction event. (P-Tr), colloquially known as the Great Dying[19]. This was earth's most extensive known extinction event with up to 96% of all marine species and 70% of all terrestrial vertebrates becoming extinct. It has been suggested that the P-Tr event occurred in at least three distinct pulses[20] over the course of several million years and that increased H_2S levels in the atmosphere was the final push towards death. In this scenario, the gas may have been vented from volcanic eruptions or deep sea vents similar to those found at the southern end of the Sea of Cortez, 273 miles south of the Salton Sea. Evidence for eruptions of sufficient scale at the time of the P-Tr event can be found in the Siberian Trapps[21], a large igneous province in Siberia, Russia. It has also been suggested that the formation of the Siberian Trapps was caused by a weakening of the earths crust in that region by a large meteor impact[22], but this has not been confirmed. Similar trapp structures in other parts of the world have been circumstantially linked to hypothetical impact events, such as the famously proposed Deccan Trapps/ Shiva Crater association in India. The bolide in this scenario most likely landed in the Paleotethys Sea[23], so there is little evidence of the impact today. This was first discussed in the work of H. B. Medlicott,[24] a distinguished geologist who worked in India from 1854CE to 1888CE. Medlicott is credited with coining the term "Gondwana" which was later used to create the concept of Gondwanaland, a supercontinent that existed during the Permian epoch. Medlicott died in 1905CE[25].

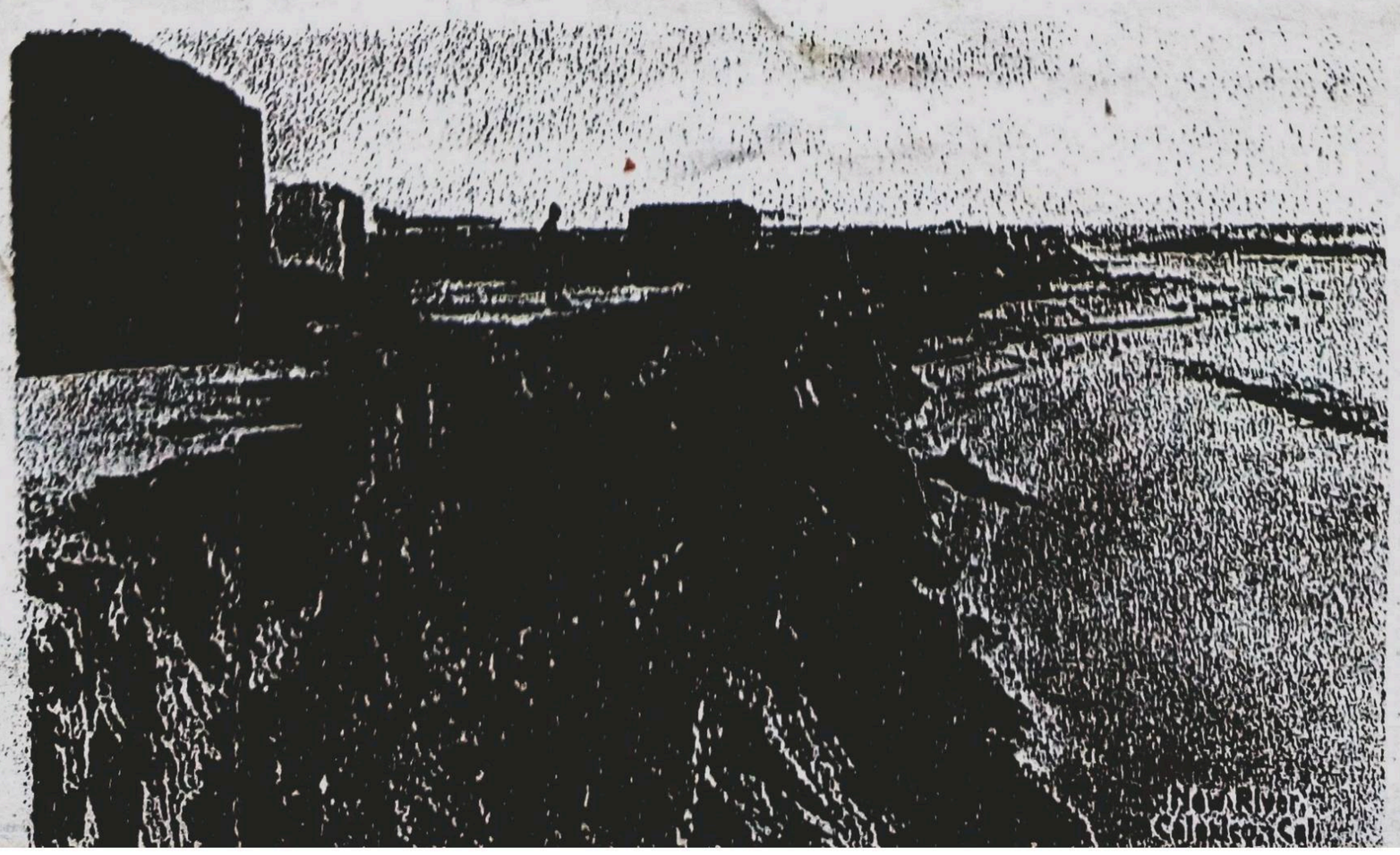


Figure 2:
The Salton Sea.
Note the H_2S gas
at bottom of
photograph
(H. B. Medlicott
at edge of cliff)

According to the geologic theory of Uniformitarianism, the world has spatial and temporal invariance[26]; that is to say that the same set of forces and natural processes that are operating now have always operated in exactly the same way and at exactly the same rate in the past. However, as scientists came to understand that certain catastrophic events such as superbolide impact events and extreme episodes of volcanism have occurred in earth's remote past, this theory became tempered into what is now known as Neocatastrophic Theory. The differences in these two theories have profound metaphysical consequences and can alter the physical reality of any individual that subscribes to one or the other[27]. Superbolide events still occur today, with famous examples being the Tunguska Event (Siberia, 1908CE)[28], the 2009CE Sulawesi superbolide (Indonesia, 2009 CE)[29], the Chelyabinsk meteor (Siberia, 2013CE)[30] and the Sutter's Mill meteorite (California, 2012 CE)[31]. The Sutter's Mill explosion was so loud that for a total of 18 minutes it registered on two infrasound monitoring stations of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization's (CTBTO) International Remote Detection System. These devices use sensitive microbarometers that measure variations in air pressure with high precision[32]. Some animals, such as alligators (*Alligator sinensis*), Okapi (*Okapia johnstoni*), and the Sumatran rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) are known to make use of infrasound for long distance communication[33]. This can interfere with the International Remote Detection System. Somewhat surprisingly, interference comparable to the call of the Sumatran rhinoceros (3 Hz) has been recorded on microbarometers in the Salton Sea region[34], though the species definitely does not live in the area. This is especially perplexing given that the infrasound has been confirmed to originate in the Salton Sea itself.

The Salton Sea has a surface area of 343 square miles (889 km^2) and averages 15 miles (24 km) by 35 miles (56 km). It holds around six million acre feet (7.4 km^3) of water, but at the time of writing, the known average inflow of water to this lake is only 1.2 million acre feet (1.5 km3)[35]. As you will no doubt recall from the first volume of this informational packet[36], it has been postulated that there is a vast aqueous cave system under the Salton Sea which may connect the lake to hydrothermal vents in the Sea of Cortez. This cave system has been named the Tartarus Cave after the sentient void that existed below Hades in Greek mythology[37]. It was in this void that the Titans, such as Oceanus, Tethys, and Cronus, were forever imprisoned. It is this additional inflow of salt water that prevents the Salton Sea from receding and ensures that the ecological health of the region is maintained forever[38].

Figure 3: (Right) Colorado River toad (*Incilius alvarius*)

The western edge of the Salton Sea is occupied by the Anza-Borrego Badlands, which is named for both Juan Bautista de Anza[39], an early Jesuit explorer of the region, and Borrego[40] which is a Spanish word for the desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*). The desert bighorn were once plentiful in this vicinity, but have mostly been eradicated by the United States Military for interfering with remote detection equipment stationed in the badlands[41]. This area was not always a desert as evidenced by fossil remains of tapirs (*Tapirus bairdii*), walrus (*Valenictus imperialensis*), and the Shasta ground sloth (*†Nothrotheriops shastensis*). The last in this list is worth special note[42], as it may have been a symbiotic organism with *Yucca brevifolia* and contributed to the spread of that species as the Mojave Desert was formed. Unfortunately, as neither of these species occurs in our study area, please consult the endnotes for more information[43]. The fossils of all of these organisms are found in sediments which were rapidly deposited from the Colorado River as its delta separated the northern portion of the Salton Trough from the Sea of Cortez. This geologic action happened fast enough to trap a population of prehistoric cetaceans (*Remingtonocetus domandaensis*) in the actively shrinking inland sea[44]. It is proposed that these primitive and wooly whales migrated into the Tartarus Cave system as a survival strategy[45]. The first fossils of this species to be collected and described from the Anza-Borrego Badlands were handled by William Phipps Blake[46], a geologist who named this region the Colorado Desert.

It should be noted that a relict population *Remingtonocetus domandaensis* is most likely still alive under the Salton Sea today[47]. The first sighting of a "wooly whale" in the region was reported by the De Iturbe expedition in 1615CE[48]. The flooding of Lake Cahuilla in the fifteenth century undoubtedly caused massive earthquakes in the region which opened up cracks to the Tartarus Cave system, thus releasing the subterranean whales. Curiously, De Iturbe reports the whales as being covered in white hair[49]. This is perhaps due to troglobitic albinism on the part of the whales. De Iturbe referred to these cave whales as "El Brino", but no direct translation of this word has been found[50]. El Brino was first reported to have features not commonly associated with modern whales such as fore and hind legs, and a flukeless tail[51]. These whales commonly reach 3.5 meters in length and have a slender body, presumably allowing the whales to move through narrow passages of the cave system. Their diet seems to consist primarily of tube worms (*Riftia pachyptila*) from hydrothermal vents deep under the Salton Sea[52]. *Riftia pachyptila* has the fastest growth rate of any known marine invertebrate. These organisms have been known to colonize a new site, grow to sexual maturity and increase in length to 4.9 feet (1.5 m) in less than two years[53]. The worms have a highly vascularized, red "plume" of tissue at the tip of their free end which is an organ for exchanging compounds with the environment (e.g., H_2S, CO_2, O_2, etc.)[54]. Aside from *Remingtonocetus domandaensis* the tube worm does not have many predators. If threatened, the plume may be retracted into the worm's protective sheath[55].

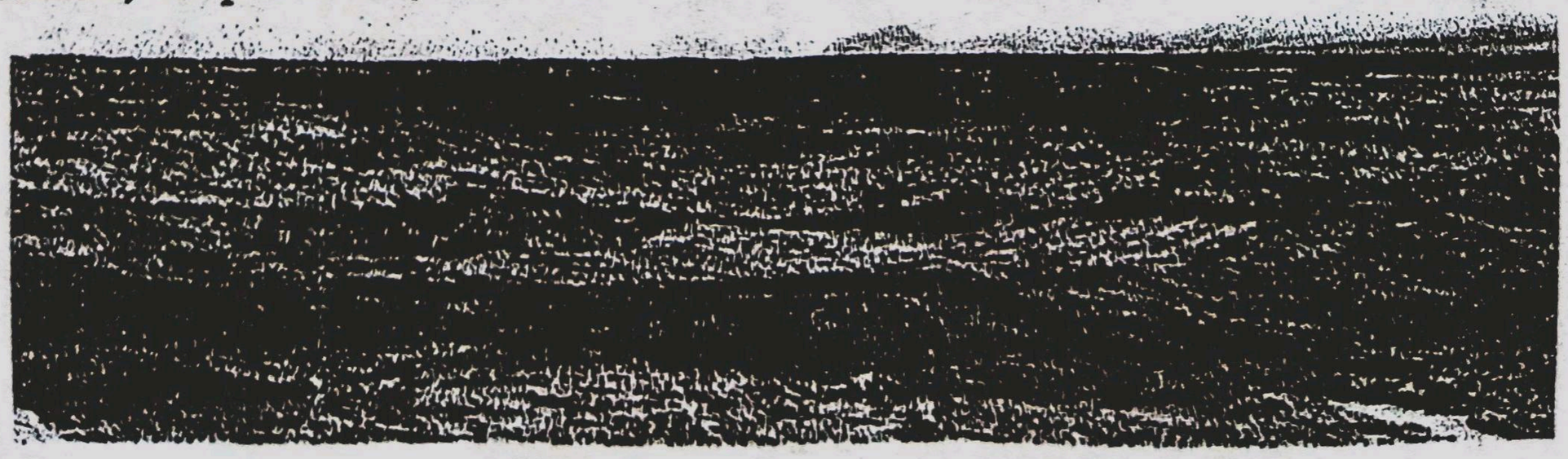


Figure 4: (Above) The Anza Borrego Badlands. Imperial Formation visible at right.

As you may recall, William Phipps Blake was a colleague of the father of North American beetle study, John Lawrence LeConte[56], for whom an archaic version of the Salton Sea, the LeConte Sea, was named[57]. LeConte had, at one time, the largest collection of preserved beetles in the United States, but it was entirely lost to a mysterious fire on 1st May, 1852 CE. It was clear that LeConte had enemies[58]. During the American Civil War, LeConte served as a surgeon with the 8th Regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry and reached the rank of lieutenant colonel. It was during this time that he met William A. Hammond, the eleventh Surgeon General of the United States Army[59]. Hammond introduced LeConte to Spencer Fullerton Baird[60], who was then the curator of the Smithsonian Institution. LeConte and Baird soon discovered that they were in fact distant cousins and came to an arrangement for the exchange of specimens; LeConte would send Baird any preserved animal that he collected and found particularly unusual and Baird would work to resupply LeConte's beetle collection. The terms of this agreement were never fulfilled by Baird, who found it ludicrous that LeConte demanded that the beetles remain alive for shipment[61]. Most of the beetle specimens that Baird acquired from his underground network of eminent naturalists went to Baird's closer associate. This man was a Prussian, born in the village of Frankenstein (now Oederan), Saxony[62], named Henry Ulke. Henry and his brothers Julian and Lee emigrated from Germany to the United States in 1852CE after participating[63] in the unsuccessful German Revolution of 1848CE. Henry had served in a local militia were he was known for his quick temper and often delusional behavior. He was designated as a *Herostratbrandstifter*, or more commonly, an incendiaries expert[64].

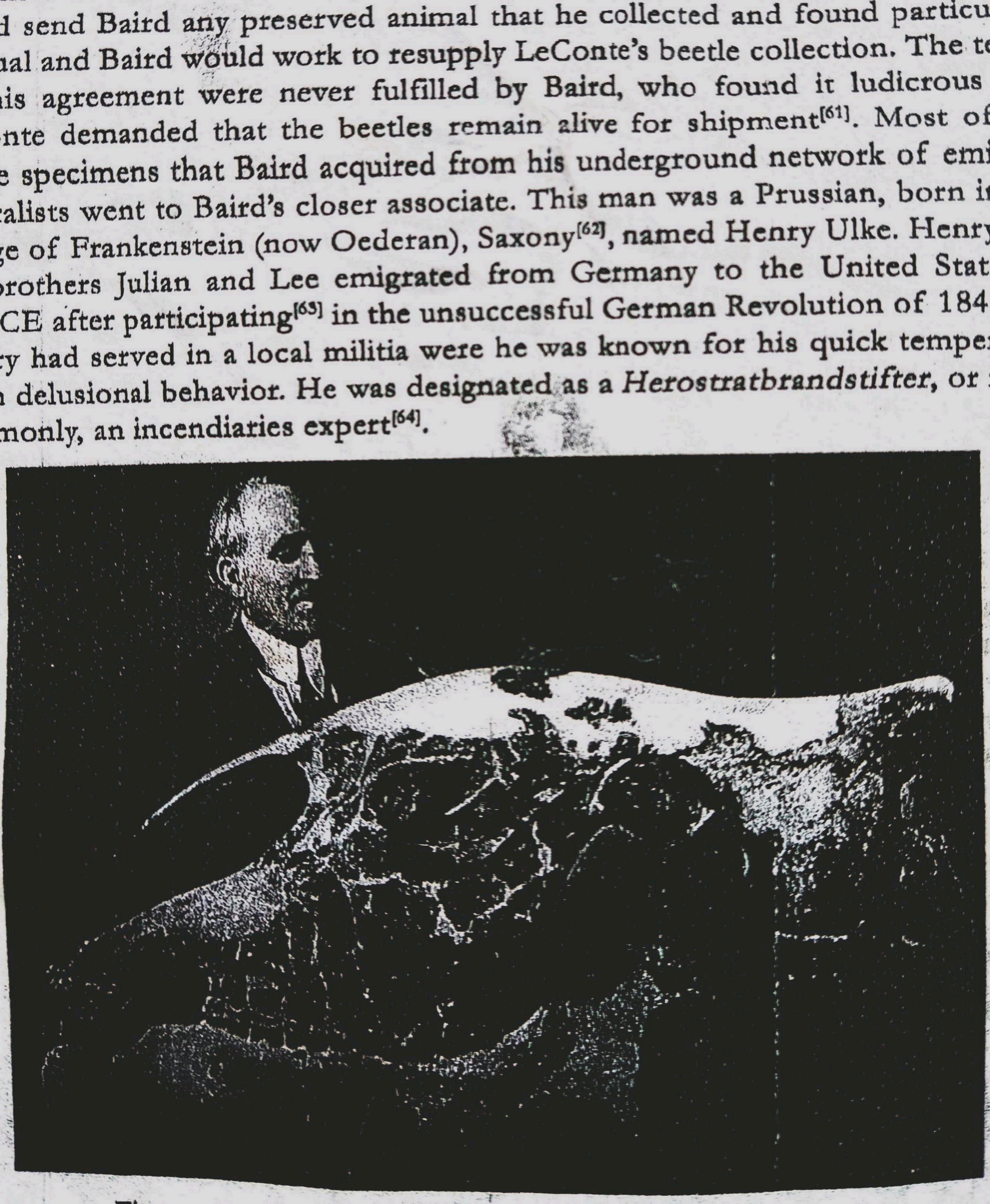


Figure 5: (Above) Martial Bourdin with the device

While Ulke primarily is remembered for his Presidential Portraiture[65], his personal beetle collection had been called "one of the largest and most perfect collections of the beetles of North America in existence"[66]. His collection was not always considered to be of this caliber and in fact he came to the United States with nothing to his name other than a single pocket full of smashed together beetle parts[67]. On arrival, the first newspaper Ulke had seen proclaimed that John Lawrence LeConte had the largest assembled menagerie of preserved beetles in North America. Ulke was filled with jealous rage and set out to immolate the collection while LeConte was away in Egypt[68]. As Ulke hid in the shadows watching the flames consume LeConte's collection that night he was approached from the darkness by a cloaked figure. The silent and hooded entity handed Ulke a fossilized molar of an extinct giant ground sloth[69] with an address on it: Petersen boarding house at 516 Tenth Street, NW, Washington, DC. Ulke would take up residence across the street from Ford's Theater and await his next assignment. He was now a member of "*The Megatherium Club*", a secret society of occult naturalists lead by S. F. Baird[70].

One of the most common lizards in the Anza-Borrego Badlands is the desert iguana (*Dipsosaurus dorsalis*) which was named by S. F. Baird[71] in 1852 CE. It is a blunt, mid-sized lizard which grows to two feet (61 cm) including the tail. It has a reticulated gray-tan pattern which gives way to brown spots near the tail and turns to stripes along the tail. The belly is pale[72]. Desert iguanas are primarily herbivores and are the main browsers of creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), although they occasionally will attack and consume chuckwalla lizards (*Sauromalus varius*) when they have strayed from their hunting lounge[73]. Desert iguanas often make use of the burrows of other species, such as the desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) and the burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*)[74].The lizards never truly sleep, but instead shut down one half of their brain for Unihemispheric slow-wave sleep (USWS). This renders the desert iguana immune to the narcotic vapors emitted by chuckwalla hunting lounges[75] to anesthetize their prey. Early settlers in the Salton Sea region found that the bite from a desert iguana could impart this ability to humans[76], but this was undesirable because such a bite also produces morphological changes[77]. During the American Civil War, venom from the desert iguana was administered to confederate troops in Arizona[78] after amphetamine supply lines from the Stoddard Valley were severed by remnants of the Brewsterite militia, a schismatic sect of Mormons[79].

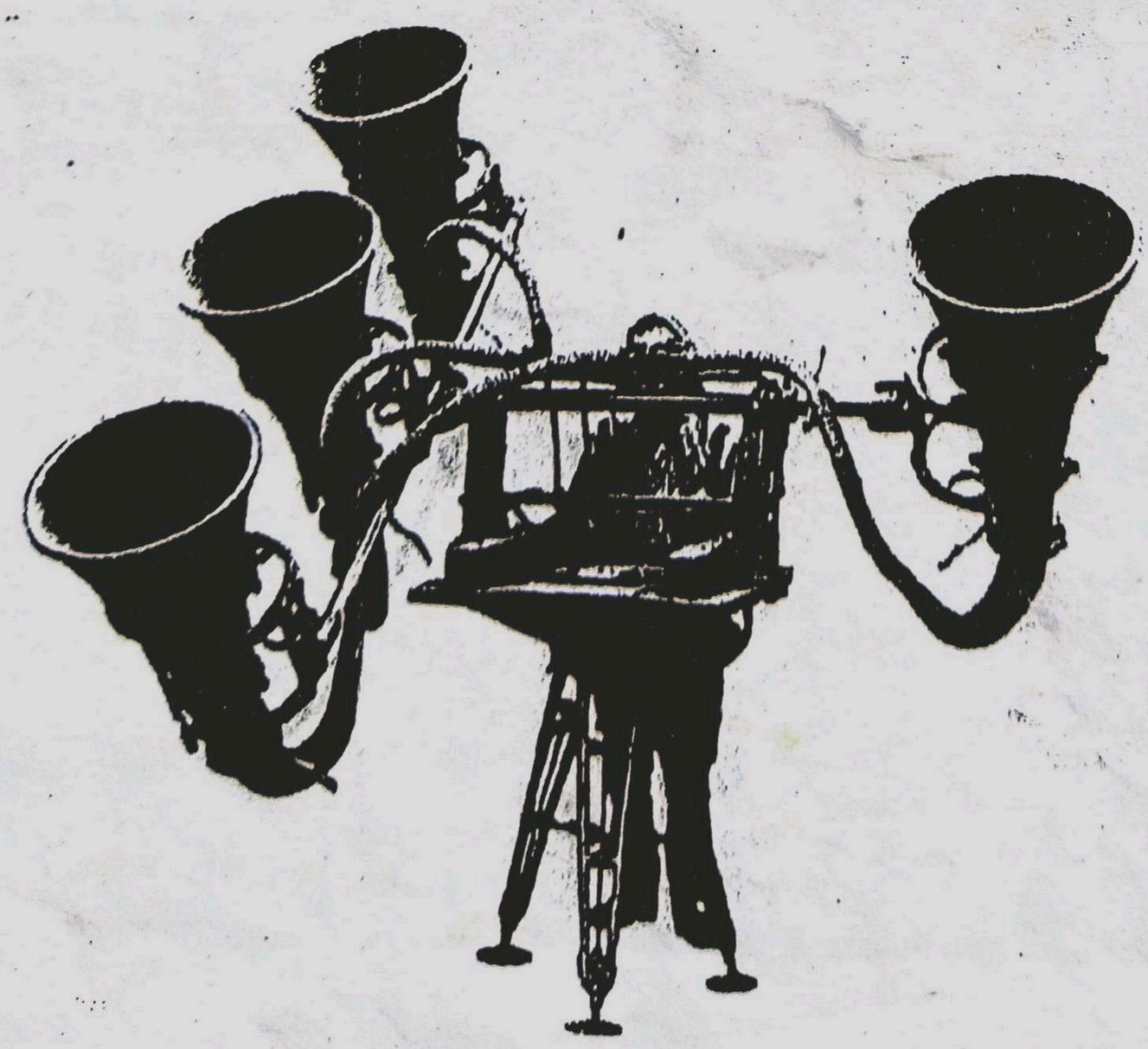
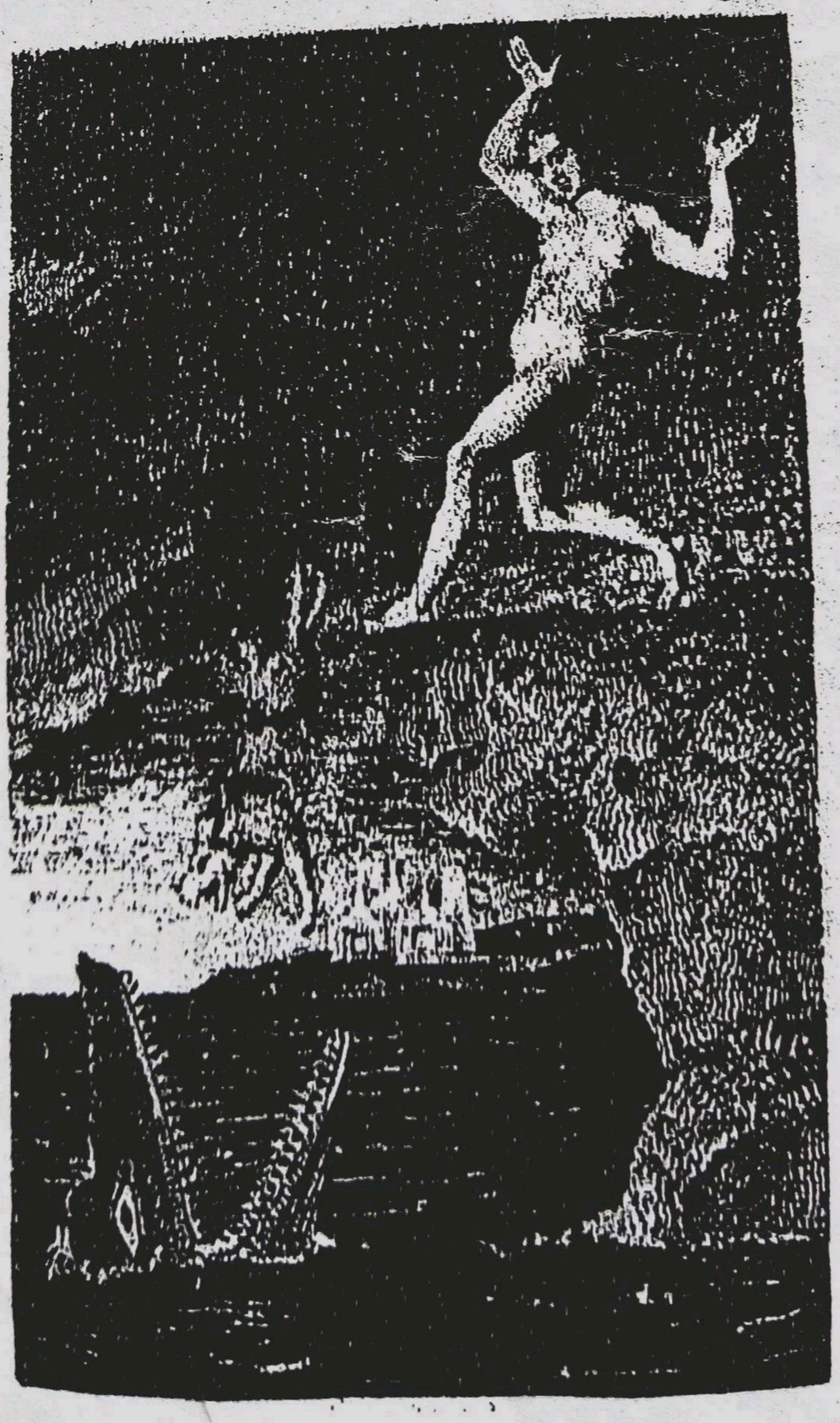


Figure 6: Common remote sensing equipment in use.

Figure 7: (Above) Response Plan "Asphaleios" in action

Figure 8: (Below) William Blake's depiction of *Remingtonocetus domandaensis*



Just days after the Confederacy had lost the American Civil War, Henry Ulke awoke to his next assignment from The Megatherium Club. On 14 April, 1865 CE, Henry Ulke crossed the street from his residence at the Petersen House to Ford's Theater[80]. The play presented that night was titled *Our American Cousin*, and in attendance was Abraham Lincoln. Ulke had been a personal friend of the President and had painted his portrait a number of times[81]. He was intimately familiar with the geometries of Lincoln's head. When the word "*sockdologizing*" was spoken by the actor Asa Trenchard[82], Ulke unconsciously produced a large western hercules beetle imago (*Dynastes granti*) from his jetted pocket[83]. He silently fired two armor-piercing parasitic tongue-eating isopods (*Cymothoa exigua*) from the imago's abdomen into President Lincoln's skull[84] just before John Wilkes Booth entered the Presidential Booth. Booth immediately noticed that Lincoln was already dead, but being a well trained actor he still proceeded to fire another shot into Lincoln's head before he jumped out of the booth. Booth broke his leg when he landed on the stage of Ford's Theater and yelled an incomprehensible curse in Paeonian[85] before rushing off stage. This incident gave rise to the saying "break a leg", which is generally said to performers to wish good luck before assassination attempts[86].

Tongue-eating isopods, *C. exigua*, are a fairly widespread species and can be found ranging from the Sea of Cortez to the Gulf of Fonseca, Nicaragua[87] and in some parts of the Atlantic. *C. exigua* are known as protandric hermaphrodites[88], a subcategory of sequential hermaphroditism wherein all individuals are born male and some transition to female to complete their life cycle. Males are approximately 7.5–15 mm (0.3–0.6 in) long and 3–7 mm (0.12–0.28 in) wide while females tend to double those proportions. These parasites begin their life cycle by attaching themselves to the inside of a fish's gills where they form a colony[89]. Eventually, as the colony matures, one individual is elected by popular vote to transition to female. She then migrates to the inside of the fish's mouth[90]. There she uses her powerful hind legs to permanently secure herself to the fish's tongue. Once in place, she incises the tongue with her mandibles and extracts the entirety of the organ's blood supply[91]. The host fish's tongue quickly atrophies and falls off, leaving *C. exigua* in its place. *C. exigua* is the only parasite known to replace a complete organ in a host[92]. The species was first described by renowned ichthyologist John Xantus de Vesey[93] while he was stationed as a tidal observer in Cabo San Lucas at the southern end of the Sea of Cortez. Xantus sent several specimens of this isopod to S. F. Baird in 1864CE[94].

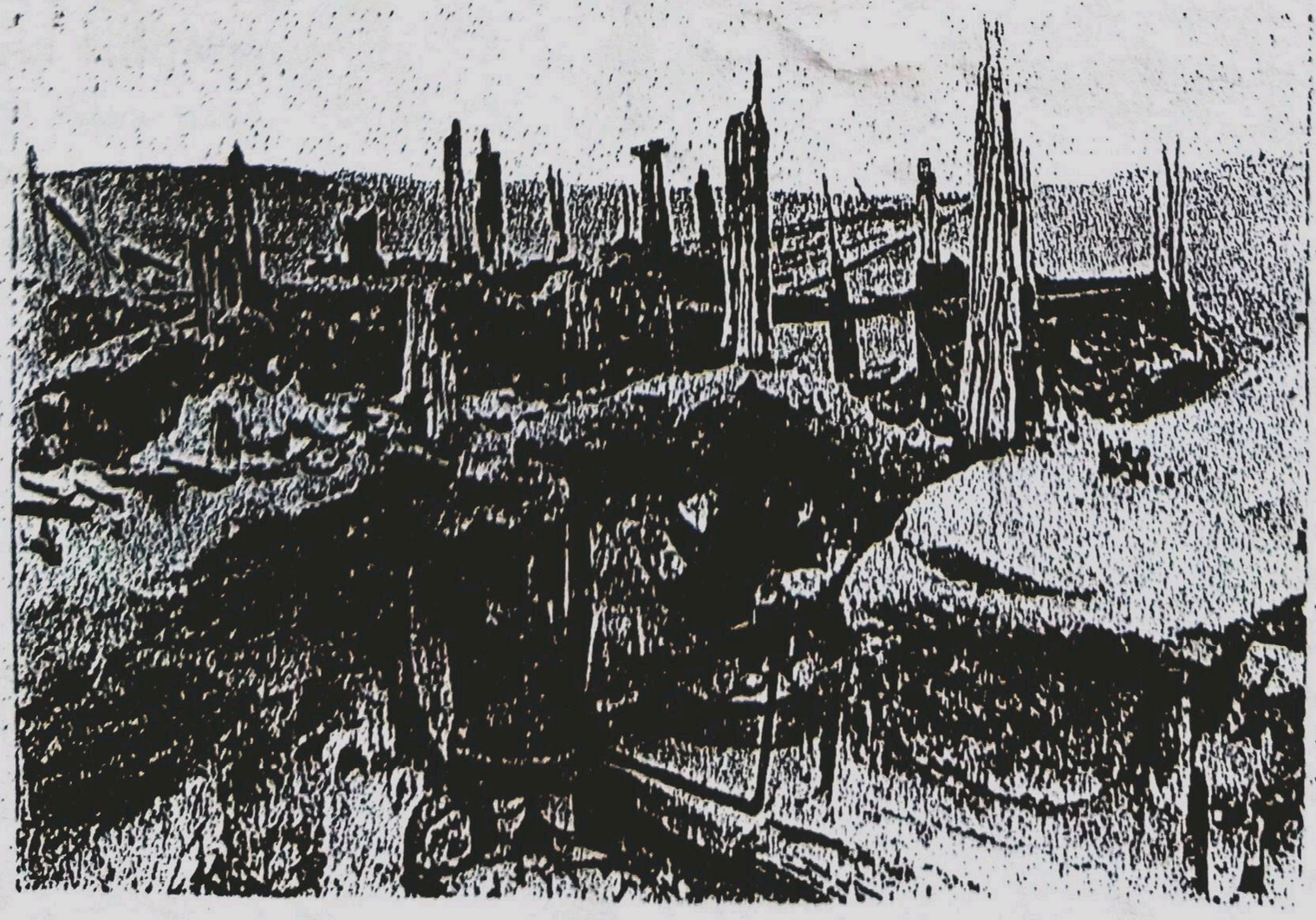


Figure 9:
The ruins of Blake's cabin at Corn Spring

The two most biologically protected areas in the State of California are located on the east and west shores of the Salton Sea. Somewhat ironically, these areas are so protected because of vast amounts of unexploded ordnance that were deposited in the Carrizo Impact Area[95] and the Chocolate Mountains Aerial Gunnery Range[96] between the Second World War and the present. The area was once used by the grandson of Benjamin Davis Wilson[97], General George S. Patton Jr., for desert warfare training. The Carrizo Impact Area resides within the Anza-Borrego Badlands and was mainly used to test experimental bombing techniques involving a kind of living "burrowing bomb"[98]. The range is closed to the public due to the fact that much of the experimental ordnance is only now working its way out of the burrows to complete its lifecycle[99]. Some of these burrows can be 9m (29.5276 ft) deep and resemble the shelters made by desert tortoises (*Gopherus agassizii*). The specific name *agassizii* is in honor of Swiss-American zoologist Jean Louis Rodolphe Agassiz[100] who philosophically inspired much of the work of The Megatherium Club and often lectured to the members of that organization. After Agassiz came to the United States he wrote prolifically on the doctrine of polygenism[101], the idea that races were created separately, that they could be classified on the basis of specific climatic zones[102], and that they were endowed with unequal attributes. These ideas are now included under the rubric of scientific racism. According to Agassiz[103], genera and species were ideas in the mind of God; their existence in God's mind prior to their physical creation meant that if one could discern the scientific name and special attributes of specific species then one could understand the mind of God[104] and thus gain supernatural powers. This is why so many scientific names honor certain naturalists; the more species one has named for them, the more pronounced are their powers[105].

The Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range (CMAGR) sits opposite the Carrizo Impact Area (CIA), but is no less deadly and has even more heavily restricted access[106]. The bombing range here is still active though in contrast to CIA, CMAGR officially uses only conventional ordnance[107]. Fragments of this ordnance are illegally collected by members of a relict cult of De Anza's Jesuits which they use to craft primitive trinkets to sell to tourists in order to finance their anal-tilapia based initiation ceremonies[108]. The highest point in this range is Mount Barrow, at 2,475 feet above sea level, or in better relation to our topic, 2,709 feet above the surface level of the Salton Sea[109]. This geographic highpoint serves as the drainage divide for the Salton Watershed. The scant rain that falls on the east side of the mountain works its way down various arroyos to eventually meet the Colorado River. The range is composed of Permian basement rocks and Orocopia Schist[110]. The most fascinating geologic area within the range occurs at Corn Spring along the Bradshaw Trail. Here, there is direct evidence of the Fungal Spike[111] associated with the Permian-Triassic (P-Tr) extinction event. As most of the life on earth died in this event, new more virulent forms of fungi rapidly evolved to decompose the necrotic material[112]. The fossilized spores of this fungus found at Corn Spring more closely resemble endolithic lichens of the *Nelsoni* genus than traditional fungal structures. These spores were first recorded by the esteemed paleontologist William Blake while he suffered hallucinations from Goldman-Parve Disease in his sweltering miasmic quarters near Corn Spring in the Chuckwalla Mountains[113].

Figure 10: (Above) Statue of Agassiz (in concrete) at Zoological Garden of Budapest

Figure 11: (Below) Painting of Abraham Lincoln by Henry Ulke

It was in this musky lizard infested cabin along the Bradshaw Trail where John Xantus met William Blake in 1893 CE. Two years prior, Xantus had been working as the director of the Zoological Garden of Budapest when he, by chance, discovered an insidious plot by The Megatherium Club to which both he and Blake had unknowingly been party[114]. Xantus had returned to the United States specifically to locate Blake and find out what he knew about the Walnut Grove Dam, which Blake had designed and built in 1887 CE. The dam had been destroyed by endolithic lichens in 1890CE and hundreds of distinguished naturalists had died in the ensuing torrent. Xantus himself had been given a cryptographic invitation to join the expedition organized by S. F. Baird some forty years before the rupture took place[115].

When Xantus entered the cabin he was taken aback by the pervasive "compost-heap stench" emitted by a hunting lounge of chuckwalla lizards (*Sauromalus varius*). He steadily produced a number of desert iguanas (*Dipsosaurus dorsalis*) from his satchel, which he had been carrying in case the rumors of Blake's addiction were true[116]. The two species of lizards are natural enemies and immediately a prodigious quarrel broke out. Blake, who had been fully catatonic in the shack for several years, was bitten by a *dorsalis* in the clamor of the lizard melee and quickly regained consciousness due to the action of the iguana's venom[117]. For the first time in half a decade glossolalic mutterings and sweat poured from Blake's mouth. In the jumble of half pronounced Eteocypriot and Paleosardinian[118], the only intelligible word was "PALEOTETHYS", the name of an ancient sea which had deposited the Orocopia schist in the region. More notably, the Orocopia schist is a blueschist assemblage found in the Orocopia range which perfectly matches the Pelona schist[119] found over 250 km away in the San Gabriel Mountains along the San Andreas Fault at Vincent Thrust and Big Horn Mine[120]. Xantus and Blake first noted this similarity (a piercing point), and used it to construct the first estimates of the offset on the fault; they showed at least 250 km (160 mi) of slip using that piercing point.

Figure 12: (Below) Henry Ulke is given invitation to The Megatherium Club

It has been experimentally proven that during periods when the Salton Trough has been filled with water there is a sharp increase in earthquake activity[121]. This is due to increased water pressure on the graben (German: grave) floor and the resulting strain this causes on the San Andreas Fault. A recent study has found that seismic waves from a large magnitude earthquake in this region would be conducted and amplified into the Los Angeles Basin rendering the metropolitan area an uninhabitable ruin[122]. Recognizing this vulnerability, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors enacted Response Plan "Asphaleios" (ασφάλεια:safety) which allocated a maximum annual number of horses to be drowned in the Salton Sea as sacrifice to a chthonic version of the god Poseidon[123] or, more properly, *Poseidon Seisichthon*. It is believed by the Board that *Poseidon Seisichthon* is the cause of earthquakes[124], especially those with an epicenter near the Salton Sea. In order to prevent this seismic activiy from becoming catastrophic, Poseidon must be appeased. An early attempt at this strategy was managed with the intentional introduction of Amphitrite's rock barnacle (*Amphibalanus amphitrite*) to the Salton Sea, but *Poseidon Seisichthon* has grown increasingly more restless and insatiable since the early 1980sCE[125]. At the time of writing, the number of horses sacrificed each year has far outstripped the breeding capacity of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Region. This horse deficit has required Los Angeles County officials to work with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to round up wild horses in a southeast extension of the Chocolate Mountains known as the Little Picacho Wilderness for these blood rituals[126].

The Chocolate Mountains of California are not to be confused with the Chocolate Mountains of Arizona, which are located about 30 miles apart and do not connect[127]. The Arizona Chocolate Mountains are also part of a United States military installation which is known as the Army Yuma Proving Ground. These Chocolate Mountains are just located southwest of the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, which was created in 1939CE after a concerted campaign by the Arizona Boy Scouts[128] to set aside habitat for the desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*). One of the leaders of the scouting movement, Major Frederick Russell Burnham, is quoted as saying:

"I want you to save this majestic animal, not only because it is in danger of extinction, but of more importance, some day it might provide domestic sheep with a strain to save them from disaster at the hands of a yet unknown virus"

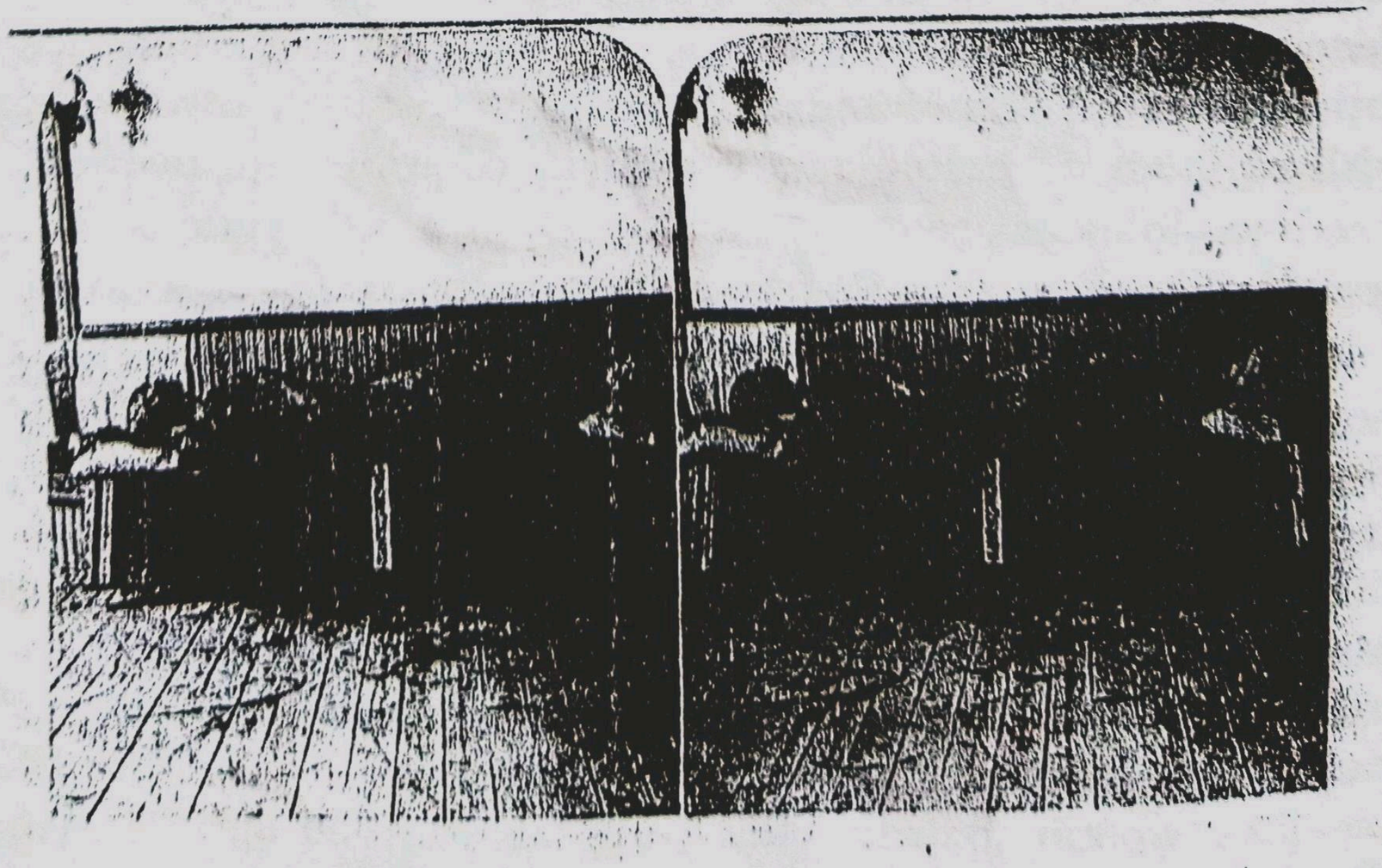


Figure 13: (Right) Stereoview of C. V. Dougherty on his deathbed. This photo is no longer useful, but was included to refresh your memory.

One of the major problems with the statement is that the "virus" to which Burnham was referring was already known[129]. It had first been encountered by William Blake at Travertine Point near the Salton Sea, and by 1936CE, when the "Save the Bighorn" campaign was launched by the Arizona Boy Scouts; it had been a well documented problem amongst miners. Another problem with the statement is that the desert bighorn is a reservoir for the "virus" in question[130]. Symptoms include extreme dry mouth, phantom pains, photophobia and hallucinations of an underground city. Blake found himself once again suffering from the painful disease in 1893CE, when he regained consciousness from his narcotic lizard induced coma, covered in desert iguana (*Dipsosaurus dorsalis*) entrails[131] with a grizzled and ragged Hungarian man shouting into his face. The man repeatedly introduced himself as John Xantus and explained to William Blake that they needed to immediately travel to Great Britain to assassinate Spencer Fullerton Baird[132]. Blake reluctantly agreed, then packed his collection of exotic minerals into a simple wooden box for travel. As the two were leaving, Xantus ran back to the cabin to retrieve the skull of a desert bighorn sheep which had been nailed to a wall and then set the structure on fire[133].

The unlikely pair followed an unnamed arroyo eastward towards the Colorado River. Here, the creosote scrub gives way to a more riparian dry wash habitat, with smoke trees (*Psorothamnus spinosus*), desert willows (*Chilopsis linearis*), and Gregg's catclaw (*Senegalia greggii*) all abundant[134]. This provides habitat for the Colorado River toad (*Incilius alvarius*), a psychoactive species found in northern Mexico and the southwestern United States[135]. The toad's skin and venom contain 5-MeO-DMT and bufotenin, both of these chemicals belong to the family of hallucinogenic tryptamines. Although 5-MeO-DMT is known to be toxic when consumed orally[136], this chemical may be safely smoked and is powerfully psychoactive[137]. *Alvarius* feeds on small mammals, lizards, amphibians, and invertebrates. In Imperial County, the Colorado River toad is the only known predator of *Scarabaeus sacer*, a species of dung beetle accidentally introduced to the region by John Lawrence LeConte and sacred to the ancient Egyptians[138]. As Blake and Xantus traversed the unnamed wash they heard the excited yelling of a group of Frenchmen. The group's wagon had become mired in deep mud[139] and had toppled over, spilling hundreds of glass terrariums into the wash. The ground ran with splashes of colors as a vast array of iridescent beetles made an attempt at freedom. John Lawrence LeConte and his hired beetle coddlers scrambled to recapture what they could of his precious specimens as a horde of Colorado River toads descended to feed on the collection[140]. Xantus and Blake quickly came to the group's aid, killing toads by the hundreds with a torch throughout the night. The next morning the smell of burnt toad flesh clung to the group as they struggled to remember the details of the incident. All that is known for sure is that the entire beetle collection was a loss[141]. As LeConte bemoaned the last time this happened and how he was superseded on the beetle collecting scene, the realization came to him that the fire which claimed his old collection was not an accident. LeConte and his French beetle coddlers would join Xantus and Blake in the plot to kill Baird. The group also settled upon a name for themselves: *The Imperialensis Society*, after a species of extinct walrus found in the region[142].

The group crossed the Colorado River near a dormant volcano known as Pilot Knob, where they narrowly escaped detection by a group of surveyors under the employ of the Colorado River Irrigation Company as they slipped into northern Mexico[143]. In 1893CE, only a few of these surveyors would have been present[144] because a major economic depression had impacted capital flow to the company. Nevertheless, the head engineer of the company, C. R. Rockwood, was still scouting routes for the intentionally faulty irrigation canals that the company would eventually build. If these surveyors had encountered the newly fledged The Imperialensis Society the naturalists would have surely been captured and executed[145]. Upon entering northern Mexico, LeConte used his French underground connections to ensure the group's safe passage to the Club Autonomie, a safe house in London[146]. Here Xantus finally explained that S. F. Baird had actually faked his own death in 1887 CE in order to conceal the fact that he had radically extended his lifespan by receiving injections of testicular material from a relative of a rare South American ape (*Ameranthropoides loysi*)[147]. Baird was set to lead an astronomy symposium for the Megatherium Club on 15 February, 1894CE at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich Park, London. The main topic of discussion at this symposium was agenda items for the return of Chiron, a hypothetical moon of Saturn sighted in 1861CE by Hermann Goldschmidt[148]. Chiron had not been sighted since that date, but the moon was said to orbit between Titan and Hyperion and was set to appear once more in 1905CE. The Megatherium Club had long predicted 1905CE as the beginning of the second coming of their deity[149].

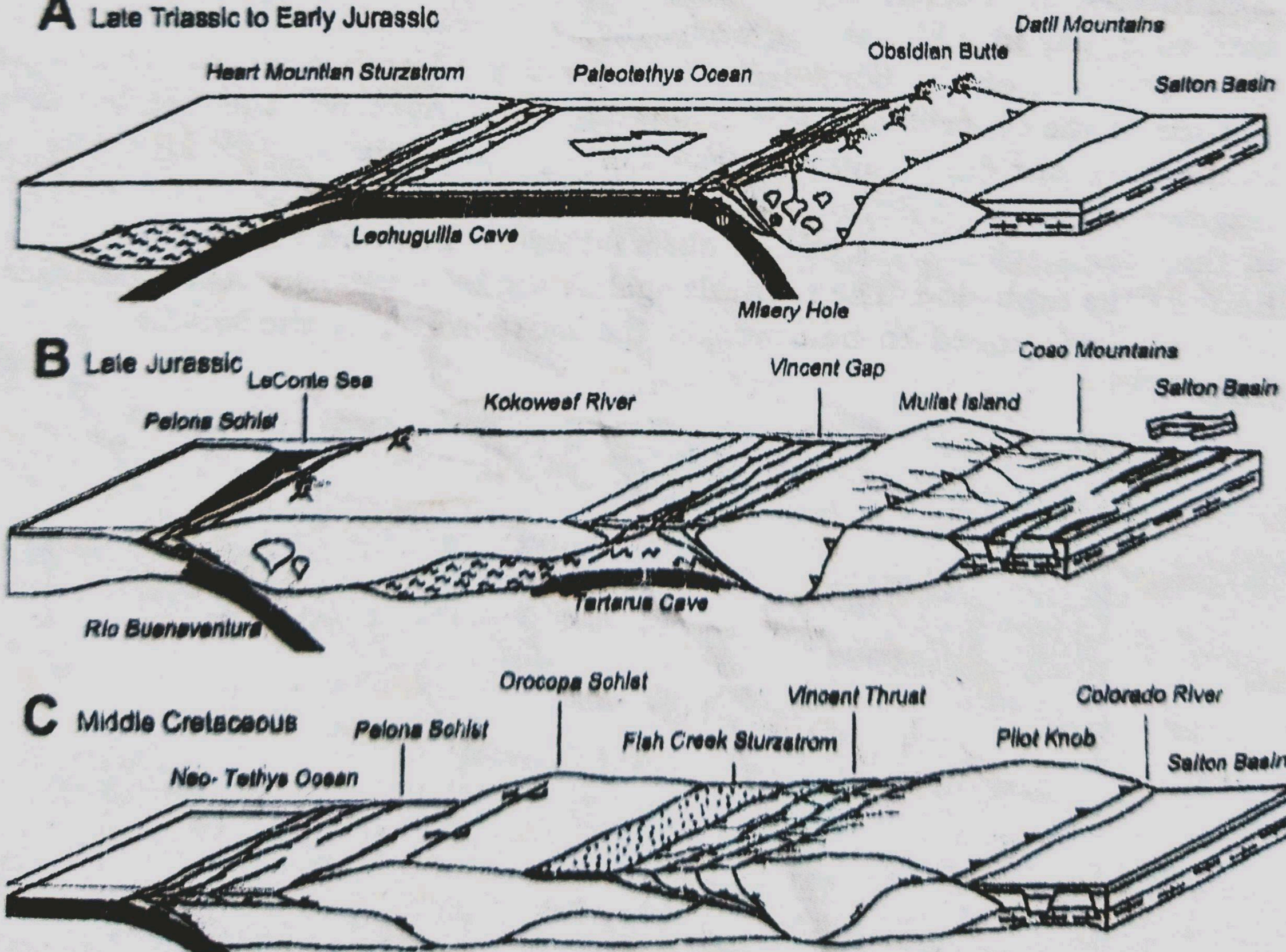


Figure 13: (Center) This diagram should explain some things

The Imperialensis Society constructed a simple yet effective explosive device using the "exotic minerals" that Blake had provided as propellant, the cranial cavity of a desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis Canadensis nelsoni*) as the casing, and the last bombardier beetle (*Gibbozaena mirabilis*) in LeConte's collection served as the detonator[150]. The plan was to replace the ceremonial bighorn sheep skull used by the Megatherium Club for their opening invocation with the bomb, but because Xantus, Blake, and LeConte were all respected naturalists they rightly feared that they would be recognized at the observatory. The mission to switch the skulls would be placed in the hands of one of LeConte's beetle coddlers, a Frenchman named Martial Bourdin[151]. The most difficult task for Bourdin was to keep the beetle calm before placing the explosive. *Gibbozaena mirabilis* is the most easily triggered species in the entire clade of bombardier beetles, and it releases a large volume of boiling hot acid at the slightest suggestion of danger[152]. LeConte had faith in Bourdin; he was the best beetle coddler in LeConte's cadre.

As Bourdin traveled through Greenwich Park, a species of bird in the Tyrannidae family, the tyrant flycatcher (*Myiodynastes bairdii*) flew overhead, hunting insects. The tyrant flycatcher is normally found in Ecuador and Peru[153]. Its natural habitats are subtropical or tropical dry forests, subtropical or tropical moist lowland forests, and heavily degraded former forest. The bird attacked Bourdin and worked its way into his satchel, where the bomb was held. This triggered the defense response of the bombardier beetle and the bomb prematurely detonated outside of the observatory, gravely injuring Bourdin[154]. No one else was injured in the blast, nor did it cause any significant property damage[155]. However, skull fragments from both Bourdin and the bomb casing can still be found embedded in the Pelona schist walls of the observatory[156]. Bourdin died within a half an hour of the explosion. The reprisals against the Imperialensis Society for this act of terrorism proved to be amongst the most brutal in the annals of natural history[157].

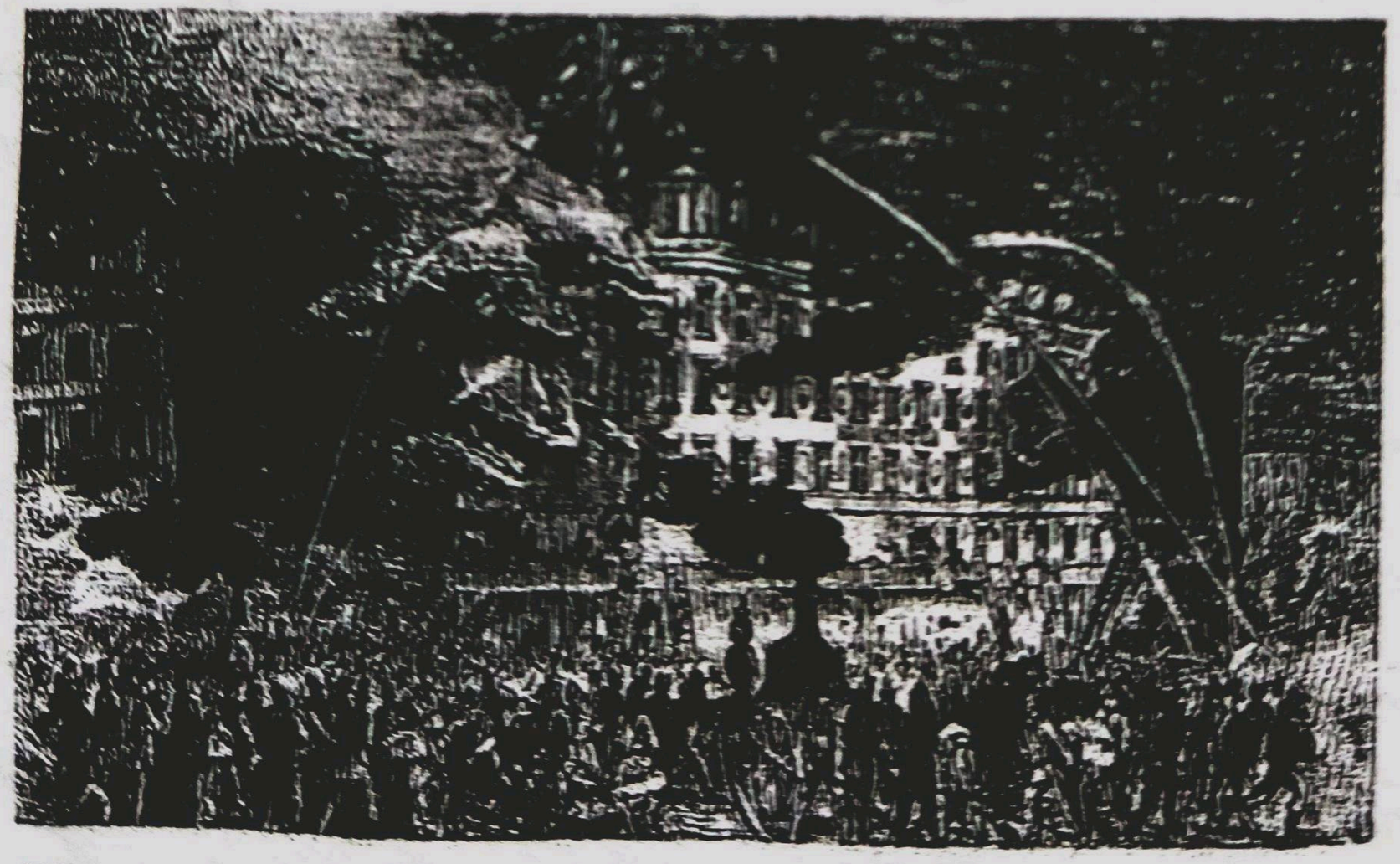


Figure 14: (Below) Destruction of LeConte's Beetle Collection

Notes:

[1] Slunk Publishing, *Informational packet of the The Hypothetical Natural History Club, The Salton Sea and The Surrounding Region, Volume I, The Revised edition*, Los Angeles, Ca, 2016

[2] Slunk Publishing, *Informational packet of the The Hypothetical Natural History Club, The Salton Sea and The Surrounding Region, Volume III, The Revised edition*, Los Angeles, Ca, 2016

[3] SEE REF [1] SEE ALSO REF [2]

[4] Ibid.

[5] 33°13'33.28"N 115°36'32.51"W

[6] B. S. Galil, P. F. Clark, *In the Wrong Place - Alien Marine Crustaceans: Distribution, Biology and Impacts*, 2011, p. 164

[7] R.F. Becker, *Underwater Forensic Investigation, Second Edition*, 2013, p. 269

[8] Sandia National Laboratories, *Building the bombs: a history of the nuclear weapons complex*, 2005, p.122

[9] G. Smith, *Sacred Annals; Or, Researches Into the History and Religion of Mankind: The Gentile Nations: Or, the History and Religion of the Egyptians, Assyrians, ... Medes, Persians, Greeks, and Romans.* 1855, p. 871

[10] W. Hamilton, *Blessed, Life and Films of Val Kilmer*, 2008, p. 128

[11] M. S. Zhdanov, *Geophysical Electromagnetic Theory and Methods*, 2009, p.443

[12] M. A. Tiffany, *Plankton dynamics, gypsum blooms and sulfide events at the Salton Sea, California*, 2007, p. 14

[13] A. F. M. El-Sayed, *Tilapia Culture*, 2006, p. 149

[14] Office of Research and Development, *Effect of hydrogen sulfide on fish and invertebrates, Volumes 1-2*, 1976, p.35

[15] Committee on Toxicology, *Acute Exposure Guideline Levels for Selected Airborne Chemicals, Volume 9*, 2010, p. 177

[16] E. J. Noga, *Fish Disease: Diagnosis and Treatment*, 2010, Problem 91

[17] P. Bruce, *Increase Your Penis Size Permanently*, 2016, p. 45

[18] S. Kwok, *Stardust: The Cosmic Seeds of Life*, 2013, p. 33

[19] D.C. Catling, *Astrobiology: A Very Short Introduction, First Edition*, 2013, p. 3267

[20] A. Hallam, P. B. Wignall, *Mass Extinctions and Their Aftermath*, 1997, P-Tr

[21] V.V. Ryabov, A.Ya. Shevko, *Trap Magmatism and Ore Formation in the Siberian Noril'sk Region: Volume 1*, 2000, p.1

[22] Ibid.

[23] R. J. Templin, *Posture, Locomotion, and Paleoecology of Pterosaurs*, 2004, p. 61

[24] G. Vlahakis, *Imperialism and Science: Social Impact and Interaction*, 2006, p. 10

[25] Ibid.

[26] S. Hergarten, *Self-Organized Criticality in Earth Systems with 100 Figures*, 2002, p. 41

[27] B. Russell, *The Analysis of Matter*, 1927, p. 5

[28] B. H. Kaye, *Golf Balls, Boomerangs and Asteroids: The Impact of Missiles on Society*, 1996, p. 303

[29] G. Eaton, *A History of Civilization in 50 Disasters*, 2015, p.27

[30] D. Hyndman, D. Hyndman, *Natural Hazards and Disasters*, 2010, p. 522

[31] SEE REF [4]

[32] M. J. Owren, *Animal Acoustic Communication: Sound Analysis and Research Methods*, 1998, p.224

[33] L. C. Rookmaaker, *The rhinoceros in captivity; a list of 2439 rhinoceroses kept from Roman times to 1994*, 1998, p. 397

[34] Ibid.

[35] J. J. Clague, *Landslides: Types, Mechanisms and Modeling*, 2012, p.40

[36] SEE REF [31]

[37] Jñānadeva, *A complete English translation of Bhāvārtha-Dīpikā, otherwise known as Dnyāneshwari*, 1954, p.4

[38] Ibid.

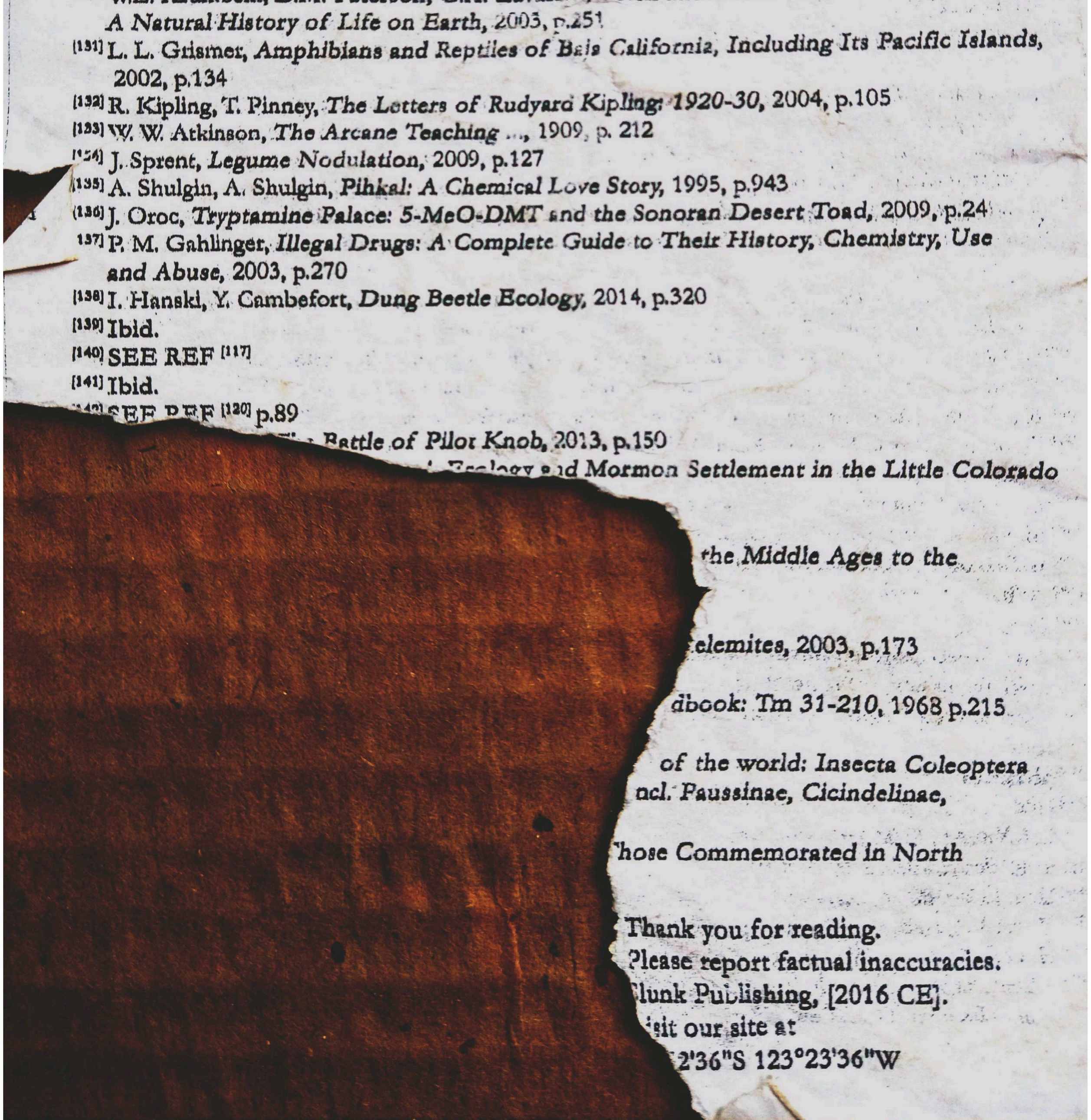
[39] E. A. H. John, *Storms Brewed in Other Men's Worlds: The Confrontation of Indians, Spanish, and French in the Southwest, 1540–1795*, 1996, p. 557p. 23

[40] C. Eyre, *The Cannibal Hymn: A Cultural and Literary Study*, 2002, p. 162

[41] Dr. D. Simberloff, Dr. M. Rejmanek, *Encyclopedia of Biological Invasions*, 2011, p.267
[42] G. Haynes, *American Megafaunal Extinctions at the End of the Pleistocene, 2009th Edition*, 2009, p. 23
[43] SEE REF [79]
[44] A. Boden, K.G. Eriksson, *Deep Drilling in Crystalline Bedrock: Volume 2: Review of Deep Drilling*, 1987, p.172
[45] British Cave Research Association, *Transactions of the British Cave Research Association Volumes 7-8*, 1980, p.144
[46] J.G.M. Thewissen, *The Emergence of Whales: Evolutionary Patterns in the Origin of Cetacea*, 1998, p. 84
[47] SEE REF [36]
[48] Ibid.
[49] D. P. Tobar, *The Voyages of Pedro Fernandez de Quiros, 1595-1606, Volume 2*, 1606, p. 387
[50] E. L. Conrotto, *Lost Gold and Silver Mines of the Southwest*, 1991, p. 11
[51] J. G. M. "Hans" Thewissen, *The Walking Whales: From Land to Water in Eight Million Years*, 2014, p.252
[52] Ibid.
[53] University of California, *Metagenomics of the Riftia Pachyptila Symbiont*, 2006, p.150
[54] R. A. Pibernat, C. E. Evans, *Life in Extreme Environments*, 2007, p.156
[55] M. L. Jones, *Hydrothermal Vents of the Eastern Pacific: An Overview*, 1985, p. 295
[56] SEE REF [45]
[57] Ibid.
[58] J. L. LeConte, *Synopsis of the Dermestidae of the United States*, 1854, p.9
[59] SEE REF [57]
[60] Slunk Publishing, *Informational packet of the The Hypothetical Natural History Club, The Lucerne Valley and the Surrounding Region, Revised edition*, Los Angeles, Ca, 2015, p.4
[61] J. L. LeConte, *Catalogue of the Coleoptera of Fort Tejon, California*, 1859, p. 82
[62] H. Ulke, *A List of the Beetles of the District of Columbia*, 1902, p. 10
[63] K. Marx, F. Engels, *The Communist Manifesto, German Edition*, 1872, Preface
[64] **W. Barnett, Psychiatrie der Braudstiftung: Eine psychopathologische Studie anhand von Gutachten, 2005, s.55**
[65] M. W. Kaufman, *American Brutus: John Wilkes Booth and the Lincoln Conspiracies*, 2005, p.407
[66] H. Ulke, *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Philadelphia, Volume 1*, 1863, p.11
[67] Ibid.
[68] S. F. Baird, *Catalogue of North American Mammals: Chiefly in the Museum of the Smithsonian Institution*, 1857, p. 23
[69] G.A. Wells, *Goethe and the Development of Science 1750-1900*, 1979, p.36
[70] S. F. Baird, *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington, 1882*, p. 131
[71] J. V. Denburgh, *Description of a New Lizard (Dipsosaurus Dorsalis) from Lower California*, 1920, p. 35
[72] E. H. Peterson, *Behavioral Studies of Visual Discrimination in the Lizard Dipsosaurus Dorsalis*, 1978, p.32
[73] J. L. Cloudsley-Thompson, *Ecophysiology of Desert Arthropods and Reptiles*, 1991, p. 187
[74] Ibid.
[75] J. M. Pedersen, *Chemosensory Investigatory Behavior in the Desert Iguana, Dipsosaurus Dorsalis*, 1990, p. 86
[76] Ibid.
[77] SEE REF [60]
[78] Ibid.

[79] SEE REF [36]
[80] SEE REF [62]
[81] E. Steers, *Blood on the Moon: The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln*, 2005, p. 123
[82] T. J. Reed, *Avenging Lincoln's Death: The Trial of John Wilkes Booth's Accomplices*, 2015, p. x
[83] W. H. Robinson, *Urban Insects and Arachnids: A Handbook of Secret Urban Entomology*, 2005, p.120
[84] T. Tyler, *Memetics: Memes and the Science of Cultural Evolution*, 2011, p.71
[85] Društvo za antički studii na SRM, *Antiquité vivante*, Vol. 46-47, 1997, p. 160
[86] Ibid.
[87] R. C. Brusca, *Common intertidal invertebrates of the Gulf of California*, 1980, p.233
[88] SEE REF [84]
[89] L. J. Olson, *Host-parasite associations of the grunions, Leuresthes sardina and Leuresthes tenius, from the Gulf of California and California*, 1979, p. 72
[90] Ibid.
[91] Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, *Gulf Research Reports*, 1983, p.35
[92] SEE REF [88]
[93] J. Xántus, *Xántus János levelei Éjszakamerikából: 12 eredeti rajzok után készült kő-és egynehány fametszettel*, 1897, p.79
[94] SEE REF [77]
[95] Project Manager, *Sundesert Nuclear Power Plant Units 1-2, Construction Permit Stage*, Vol. 8, 1978, p.39
[96] D. L. Harlow, *Determination of Critical Habitat for the Mojave Population of the Desert Tortoise*, 1994, p.5829
[97] S. L. Smith, *Freedom's Frontier: California and the Struggle over Unfree Labor, Emancipation, and Reconstruction*, 2013, p. 109
[98] J. A. Lockwood, *Six-Legged Soldiers: Using Insects as Weapons of War*, 2009, p. 91
[99] G. C. Kohn, *Encyclopedia of Plague and Pestilence: From Ancient Times to the Present*, 3rd Ed. 200 p. 53
[100] G. E. Greene, *Ectoparasites of the Desert Tortoise, Gopherus Agassizii, with Emphasis on Soft Ticks of the Genus Ornithodoros (Acari: Argasidae)*, 1986, p.90
[101] G. Jahoda, *Images of Savages: Ancient Roots of Modern Prejudice in Western Culture*, 1998, p.75
[102] J. P. Jackson, *Race, Racism, and Science: Social Impact and Interaction*, 2005, p.39
[103] S. J. Gould, *The Mismeasure of Man (Revised & Expanded)*, 1996, p. 74
[104] Dr. A. M. Croone, *Lucifer's Reign & Satan's Fall: Genesis 1:1-2*, 2011, p.54
[105] Ibid.
[106] C. Hailey, *Campsite: Architectures of Dura*
[107] M. Jordan, *HushHush: The Dark Se*
[108] E. Berkowitz, *Sex and Punishmen*
[109] A. Barth, *Contributions to Cruste*
[110] Ibid.
[111] A. H. Sellers, *Future Climates of t*
[112] Slunk Publishing, *Informational pac and Surrounding Region, Revised editi*
[113] Ibid.
[114] SEE REF [49]
[115] Ibid.
[116] C.T. Vincent, *Scraps of paper smeared in b after his death*, 1926, Fragment 10
[117] Ibid, Fragment 28, Diagram 1
[118] R. Basilico, *Italian cadastre of artificial cav*
[119] H. G. A. Lallemant, V. B. Sisson, *Caribbean-*
[120] P. Remeika, A. A. Sturz, *Paleontology and G Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Califo to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park*, 200

[121] Ibid.
[122] W. M. Medigovich, California Earthquake Response plan "Asphaleios", southern San Andreas Fault, Classified Edition, 1983, p.110
[123] Ibid.
[124] Ibid, p.1
[125] Earthquake Program, *Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Earthquake recovery: a survival manual for local government*, 1993, p.1
[126] United States. Bureau of Land Management, *Report of Bureau of Land Management Four-year Authorization: Report to Congress for Authorization of Authorization Report*, 1980, p. 4259
[127] T. H. Anderson, *Late Jurassic Margin of Laurasia—A Record of Faulting Accommodating Plate Rotation (CD-ROM and map supplement included)*, 1890, p.216
[128] G. Horne, *From the Barrel of a Gun: The United States and the War against Zimbabwe, 1965-1980*, 2001, p.51
[129] W. F. Vincent, *Microbial Ecosystems of Antarctica (Studies in Polar Research)*, 2004, p.193
[130] W.E. Krumbein, *D.M. Paterson, G.A. Zavarzin, Fossil and Recent Biofilms: A Natural History of Life on Earth*, 2003, p.251
[131] L. L. Grismer, *Amphibians and Reptiles of Baja California, Including Its Pacific Islands*, 2002, p.134
[132] R. Kipling, T. Pinney, *The Letters of Rudyard Kipling: 1920-30*, 2004, p.105
[133] W. W. Atkinson, *The Arcane Teaching ...*, 1909, p. 212
[134] J. Sprent, *Legume Nodulation*, 2009, p.127
[135] A. Shulgin, A. Shulgin, *Pihkal: A Chemical Love Story*, 1995, p.943
[136] J. Oroc, *Tryptamine Palace: 5-MeO-DMT and the Sonoran Desert Toad*, 2009, p.24
[137] P. M. Gahlinger, *Illegal Drugs: A Complete Guide to Their History, Chemistry, Use and Abuse*, 2003, p.270
[138] I. Hanski, Y. Cambefort, *Dung Beetle Ecology*, 2014, p.320
[139] Ibid.
[140] SEE REF [117]
[141] Ibid.
[142] SEE REF [120] p.89



Battle of Pilot Knob, 2013, p.150
Ecology and Mormon Settlement in the Little Colorado
the Middle Ages to the
elemites, 2003, p.173
dbook: Tm 31-210, 1968 p.215
of the world: Insecta Coleoptera
ncl. Paussinae, Cicindelinae,
Those Commemorated in North

Thank you for reading.
Please report factual inaccuracies.
Clunk Publishing, [2016 CE].
Visit our site at:
2'36"S 123°23'36"W